AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 12, beginning at line 6, please amend the paragraph as set forth below:

Referring now to Fig. 13, many of the parts are the same as shown and described with reference to Fig. 12, and are given the same reference numerals. However, in this embodiment, ball and post assembly 91 (i.e., the mounting assembly) is a hollow member including set screws 88 and 89, a spring compressing rod 92, a spring 85, and spring-biased plunger 86. The externally threaded portion 93 is used to attach an object to the object mounting post 91b. The adjustable set screw 88 is a force adjustment feature used to vary the spring force which assists in positioning the ball and post assembly 91 before an object is mounted. An optional second set screw 89 can be used to prevent loosening ~~of set screw 88. The bias spring 85 and bias plunger 86 are located inside ball 91a, and~~ comprise the base subassembly of the mounting assembly. Hydraulic fluid enters through port E in the same manner as shown in Fig. 12 to push the piston 74 upwards thus clamping the ball and post assembly in its predetermined position.

On page 16, in the Abstract, please amend the paragraph as set forth below:

A support assembly is constructed to support a part-spherical base portion of an object holding device. A cover portion cooperates with the support assembly to capture the part-spherical base portion. The object holding device also includes a mounting post which has a proximal end fixed to the part-spherical base portion and extends radially outward from the support assembly to a distal end on which to attach an object. The support assembly has a piston. Fluid pressure moves the piston member upward which applies a clamping force on the part-spherical base portion to lock the object holding device and thus the object mounted to the post. ~~When fluid pressure is released, a spring restores the object mounting member to an unclamped position where it is freely moveable. Different embodiments employ various combinations of fluid pressure and mechanical springs to lock and unlock the device.~~